

## **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest – 2000**

### **First Prize: Kelsey Jacobs, Kamiakin Junior High**

He spoke loud and clear.

He was strong in action and in word.

He believed that justice would prevail.

He had faith that dreams do come true.

I also have a dream – that all the colors of the rainbow are beautiful together and individually if we would just stop, and look, share, care, and listen. How do I look into my brothers' or sisters' faces and know what they've gone through today, yesterday, or what they will experience tomorrow; good or bad.

The technology devices that are created to help people get things they want faster and more convenient, are also the same tools that are isolating people more. We want everything now. We are a people that are impatient and occasionally try to get to our goal without thinking of the consequences. For example, the streets in Seattle were filled with protesters against the WTO. Did anyone stop and think about the people that live and work in Seattle every day? How were they treated? How do we treat each other? People that are selling me items at a cash register sometimes don't know how to give change back or talk to others in a respectful way. Women and certain races are still not receiving equal pay. Waiting on the roads, at the grocery store and in airports try our patience. People cry out for help by the use of violence instead of asking for help. Parents are working 1, 2, or 3 jobs to provide for their family, but never take time to raise the child they gave birth to. We all need to be loved, listened to and cared for, not just financially but emotionally, mentally, physically, and spiritually.

Certain songs and sayings should be sung or said by everyone: "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me." by Sy Miller and Jill Jacson. "I am but a small voice, I have but a small dream." by Roger Whittaker. "Better to be safe than sorry, and better late than never." by my wise Grandmother D. Gregoire.

Martin Luther King would find justice and peace in these words, but I feel that they each have more than just memories for us. We are moving fast toward a new millennium. Each person on this earth has a dream for a better world. Inventors have created many ice breaking wonders from rockets to telephones, trains to planes, computers to vaccines and medicines. All of these are amazing but have side effects. Some pollute and destroy our atmosphere, some isolate people, and some control us. We are here on this earth for only a short time but the time is taken for granted. When I have a friend come over to my house I treat them like a guest. I share with them my time, myself, my food and my treasures. We need to treat everyone like they are our guests. We need to teach each other that everyone is special in his/her own way.

There is a need for schools to teach behavior classes every year. Children, when they are out on their own, are not taught how to budget, save, or act toward another human being. Many live in debt all the time. The feeling of having your head almost below water must be stressful, and the rest of society should not feel the brunt of it and get dragged down. We must be able to teach children to keep their heads above water, and be at peace with themselves as a positive, productive member of society, and in turn, share their gifts with others.

I have a dream for peace, respect, thoughtfulness, kindness, and patience. We are born selfish, and somewhere along the way we want someone to take the time to teach us what love is. We are like a sapling that needs to be properly planted to secure it's survival. The

roots must have room to grow, with proper nutrients, space, water, and room to reach the sun. To learn to receive with joy, and to learn to give with peace in our hearts is my wish. We need to live thankfully. Live each moment as if it truly were a miracle that we are here on this earth each and every day.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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SAYING – “BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY, AND BETTER LATE THAN NEVER.” said hundreds of times by GRANDMA D. GREGOIRE

SONG - “I AM BUT A SMALL VOICE.” by ROGER WHITTAKER

SONG – “LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH.” by SY MILLER and JILL JACSON

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